

## Walter, Judith

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**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2015 3:56 PM  
**To:** GAETestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony against sb1051

March 6, 2015

Online testimony against SB 1051

SB 1051 reminded us of guilt by association; we in Milford know these drastic changes to Title 9 are not reflective of the service the Milford Registrars of Voters, their staff and poll workers have performed for the voters of our community.

Our office works together. We communicate and share responsibilities for all daily work including, but not limited to, in person and online registrations, DMV, deceased, system removal, and system purge list processing. Any questions are brought to both registrars equally and openly, and we make sure our answers are in agreement and consistent.

The Milford Registrars of Voters train poll workers with the same shared responsibility. We communicate clearly the expectations and roles for each poll worker position. During a recent election, the ballot printer accidentally packaged Fairfield ballots in with a box of Milford ballots. When the ballot clerk opened the Fairfield ballots, she inspected the ballots as we have trained ballot clerks to do. The error was discovered, correct ballots were immediately opened and no interruption to voting occurred. The Moderator was notified; the Moderator notified the Registrars, the Registrars notified the printer, and the printer brought additional Milford ballots to us within an hour. Statewide Registrars and poll workers are united in conducting open and fair elections. Although errors sometimes occur, it is the team approach that minimizes and rectifies mistakes during a time of tremendous pressure and deadlines.

When faced with "unknown" vote calculations (when a voter votes for the same candidate for the same race on two different party lines), we did not leave our moderators without guidance. The two Registrars worked together to find a solution. By creating a math widget within an Excel spreadsheet, which allowed results to be inputted and proper allocations of UNK votes to be given by the spreadsheet. The following election a "widget" was provided from the SOTS. Our office uses technology to perform our duties more efficiently and accurately.

Another example of Milford's bipartisan team approach was in the creation of a solution of efficiency for the audit process. When hand counting results, we use a tally sheet for counting 25 ballots at a time. Rather than waiting until all groups of 25 are counted and tallied, and then adding each group of 25 (over 100 groups) with a hand calculator, we enter the results of each tally sheet into an Excel spreadsheet. Upon data entry of the last tally sheet we have the audit result total. No human adding needed. All observers have been complimentary of our efficiency and use of technology. This is not part of the Audit Procedure handbook provided by SOTS. This ingenuity is a result of the Registrars of Milford working together to find an improvement to the process.

In closing, we would like to say that we do not believe the passage of SB 1051 solves the problems that were the fuel for these drastic changes to Title 9. The solutions can be found through the Registrars statewide, as they have been found in Milford. We need to be unified in our goal: to run fair and open elections. We agree that training on a consistent and clear basis from the SOTS office, along with technological solutions for improving the reliability of the Connecticut Voter Registration System, and most importantly for reporting the results of an election. The current tabulators used in elections have the technology to report electronically, but we need SOTS to make that technology available.

This testimony is respectfully submitted by the following people,

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